

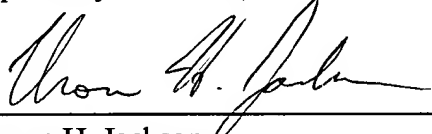
**PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO. 08/887,319**

REMARKS

Applicants request the Examiner consider the above claims prior to an examination on the merits of the present application. A check in the amount of \$606.00 is enclosed to cover the required fee for additional claims. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney in the event a dialogue or interview may be deemed appropriate. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest opportunity.

In the event there is a discrepancy between the fee enclosed and the fee deemed necessary by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Thomas H. Jackson
Registration No. 29,808

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 508-9100
Dated: February 16, 2000